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PHOTOGRAPHIC
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INCREASED LEVELS OF SS-20 FIELD TRAINING, NOVOSIBIRSK USSR (TSR)

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INCREASED LEVELS OF SS-20 FIELD TRAINING NOVOSIBIRSK, USSR (TSR)

1. (TSR) A large, SS-20 mobile intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM), field-training exercise probably involving a regimental unit was observed near the Novosibirsk IRBM Rail-to-Road Transfer Point USSR, on (Figure 1). More mobile missile equipment and troop activity were observed on this date than during four previous SS-20 field-training exercises. The exercise took place approximately 1.0 to 1.5 nautical miles (nm) north and northwest of the Novosibirsk RTP and 5.0 nm from Novosibirsk Mobile IRBM Base 1 . Activity was seen at six areas, including three areas containing SS-20 launch-related equipment and three separate command and control and support areas (Figure 2). A total of 28 launch-related, net-covered vehicles were present, including nine probable SS-20 transporter-erector-launchers (TELs), and at least 30 support vehicles. A seventh area, an additional support area, is 3 nm east of the training area. The results of mensuration suggest that the TELs were not carrying missile canisters. Although field deployment was complete and camouflage was in place when the facility was imaged, some troop activity and movement of various support vehicles were observed.

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2. (TSRU) At each area, the mobile missile equipment was aligned along the treeline at the edge of large agricultural clearings. This is the same alignment pattern seen at previous SS-20 field-training exercises in the Novosibirsk area since July 1978.[1] However, tentative identifications of all launch-related vehicles were made by their relative positions in the SS-20 launch line.[2] The three areas containing launch-related equipment were characterized by the presence of three probable SS-20 TELs in each SS-20 launch line. This marked the first deployed instance of three TELs in a launch line. The nine TELs correspond to nine single-bay garages at a mobile IRBM support base and are the best indication of a regimental training exercise.

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3. (TSR) Each area occupied by launch-related equipment (Figures 3, 4, and 5) contained three probable SS-20 TELs, a probable MAZ-543 missile support vehicle (MSV), a probable meter van truck with an erected 14-meter antenna, unidentified equipment, and two large tents. In addition, one probable BTR-60PU command and control vehicle was observed at launch line 2 (Figure 4), and one bus was seen near launch lines 1 and 3 (Figures 3 and 5). Three additional areas were also occupied by support elements. A field-deployed communications unit (Figure 6) consisted of three probable MAZ-543 MSVs, one free-standing antenna, two probable van trucks, a probable TWIN EAR troposcatter truck, and a probable Ural-375 support van. A main support and bivouac area (Figure 7), observed in a heavily wooded area, contained nine small personnel tents; three larger, probable mess/administration tents; one probable vehicle

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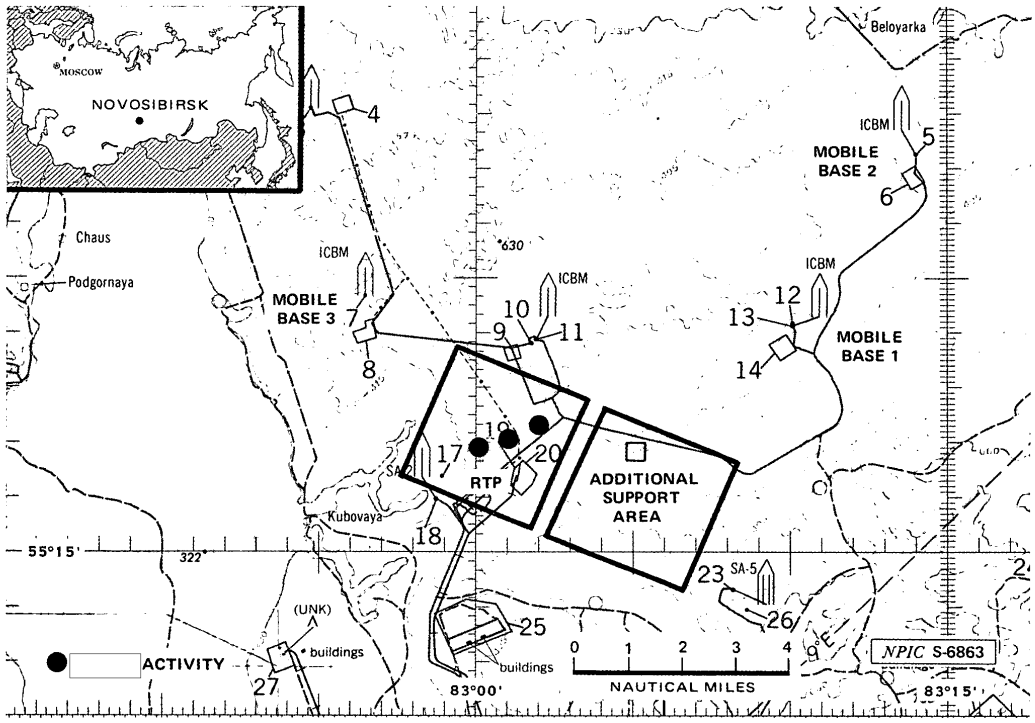

FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF PROBABLE SS-20 EQUIPMENT AT NOVOSIBIRSK, USSR, ON

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parking tent; two canvas-covered, probable supply trailers; and at least three small cargo trucks. A separately deployed engineer unit near launch line 2 (Figure 4) consisted of nine vehicles (two not on photograph) and three tents. Equipment observed for snow removal and technical support included an MDK-2 ditching machine, an AT-T prime mover, one E-305V backhoe, and six unidentified vehicles. A road grader was clearing snow from the main roadway and several small vehicles were moving between the occupied areas. The six areas are 400 to 600 meters apart.

4. (TSR) A second main support area (Figure 8) is approximately 3 nm east of the training area and 2 nm east of Novosibirsk RTP. This area contained five probable, canvas-covered supply trailers; two long, canvas-covered, drive-through revetments; and approximately 30 to 35 canvas-covered vehicles/objects. A road grader, one bus, and several small vehicles were observed moving about in the area. Approximately 25 troops were present in one group and several defense/security positions were at the perimeter of the area.

5. (TSR) Approximately 60 vehicles were observed at Novosibirsk, including the vehicle count for the SS-20 launch lines, deployed communications, and both support areas and all the vehicles observed traveling between occupied areas. Additional support vehicles may have been under canvas at the second support area. The support and bivouac area supported approximately 90 to 108 troops, using the standard 10-to-12-man capacity for each of the nine personnel tents observed. These totals represent a somewhat lower number of vehicles present and also a lower bivouac capability than expected for regimental operations. Prior estimates[3] of regimental strength levels projected as many as 180 total vehicles, not including ancillary, nondirect-support vehicles. The amount of large-vehicle garage space available at SS-20 mobile IRBM support bases also indicates that as many as 56 large vehicles could be associated with a regiment. Although this exercise was the largest in scale observed to date, it may have represented a regiment-sized unit at reduced strength. It is suspected that the training area at Novosibirsk is larger than the area imaged on [redacted] The distance of 3.0 to 3.5 nm between the second main support area and the mobile missile training area may suggest the involvement of an additional SS-20 field deployed unit several miles to the east of the occupied areas. 25X1

6. (TSR) The three areas occupied by SS-20 launch equipment on [redacted] are the same areas used for an earlier field-training exercise observed on imagery of [redacted] On that date, the support and bivouac area may have also been occupied, but heavy summer tree foliage and oblique, low-resolution imagery precluded any possible identification of tents and equipment. However, vehicle tracks were observed leading from the wooded area, a possible indication of 25X1 25X1 25X1

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similar support activity. At least one of these areas was again occupied during a subsequent SS-20 field-training exercise observed on [redacted] Heavy cloud cover on that date precluded further analysis. 25X1

7. (TSR) This latest mobile missile activity, though larger in scale, is similar to previous SS-20 field-training exercises observed at both Novosibirsk and Drovyanaya SSM Complex (BE [redacted] Prior coverage of the training areas at Novosibirsk on [redacted] revealed no equipment or activity. Subsequent [redacted] was partially cloud covered; however, none of the observed areas were occupied. The elapsed time of the exercise and the deployment patterns are consistent with previously observed exercises. [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All available KEYHOLE imagery acquired through [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

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2. NPIC. [redacted] PIR-047/78, *Identification of Soviet SS-16/-20 Equipment by Location and Dispersal Patterns (TSR),* Dec 78 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1
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3. CIA [redacted] Intelligence Memorandum, *The SS-X-20: Deployment Prospects and Strategic Implications,* Jun 76 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1
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*Only TSR material extracted from document.

REQUIREMENT

Project 130080NA

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] 25X1
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